

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A medicine prototype support system for an ingredient manufacturer developing medical product at a request of a product manufacturer comprising:

~~a product manufacturer system of the product manufacturer, an ingredient manufacturer system of the ingredient manufacturer, and a plurality of composition manufacturer systems of composition manufacturer which the ingredient manufacturer requests to manufacture a composition, which are connected through communications means, wherein~~

~~the product manufacturer system comprises transmission means for transmitting at least main ingredient information about a medical product to the ingredient manufacturer system;~~

~~the ingredient manufacturer system comprises:~~

~~a database comprising confidential first main ingredient information and corresponding second main ingredient information, the first confidential main ingredient information being confidential information of the product manufacturer after information conversion corresponding to the first main ingredient information;~~

~~information conversion means for selecting a second main ingredient by comparing properties of the confidential main ingredient stored in the database with properties of a plurality of potential second main ingredients stored in the database;~~

composition ingredient determination means for ~~determining~~ selecting a
composition ingredient based on the properties of the first and second main ingredients
information for each process of medicines developed according to the main ingredient
information; and

~~information conversion means for information conversion from the main-~~
~~ingredient information to second main ingredient information corresponding to the main-~~
~~ingredient information using the database when the main ingredient information is-~~
~~confidential first main ingredient information;~~

transmission communication means for receiving confidential first main ingredient
information from a product manufacturer and for transmitting selected second main
ingredient information and composition ingredient information to a the plurality of
composition manufacturer systems system, wherein the medicine prototype support
system does not reveal the identity of the confidential first main ingredient to the
composition manufacturer system

~~second main ingredient information converted by the information conversion-~~
~~means and the composition ingredient information for each process of medicines-~~
~~developed and obtained by the composition ingredient determination means;~~

~~the plurality of composition manufacturer systems comprise transmission means-~~
~~for transmitting composition manufacture information about the manufacture of a part of~~
~~a manufacture process of the medical product to the ingredient manufacturer system.~~

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A medicine prototype support system for an ingredient manufacturer developing medical product at a request of a product manufacturer comprising:

- a database including first main ingredient information and second main ingredient information;
- information conversion software that selects a second main ingredient by comparing properties of the first main ingredient stored in the database with properties of a plurality of potential second main ingredients stored in the database;
- composition ingredient determination software that selects a composition ingredient based on the properties of the first and second main ingredients; and
- a server for transmitting second main ingredient information and composition ingredient information to a composition manufacturer system, wherein

the first main ingredient information is confidential information of the product manufacturer, the second main ingredient information is non-confidential, and the medicine prototype support system does not reveal the identity of the confidential first main ingredient to the composition manufacturer system.

10. (New) A method of requesting prototype manufacture from a composition manufacturer comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request from a product manufacturer, the request including main ingredient information that is confidential information of the product manufacturer;
- storing the confidential first main ingredient information;

selecting a second main ingredient by comparing the properties of the confidential main ingredient with the properties of a plurality of potential second main ingredients;

determining a composition ingredient based on the confidential main ingredient information and second main ingredient information;

transmitting a request for prototype manufacture to the composition manufacturer, the request for prototype manufacture including the identities of the selected second main ingredient and the selected composition ingredient; and

maintaining the confidentiality of the first main ingredient information by not transmitting it to the composition manufacturer.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, further comprising transmitting a second request for prototype manufacture to a second composition manufacturer.

12. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the confidential main ingredient information received from the product manufacturer includes the identity of the main ingredient.